Self-Sufficiency in Foodgrains Production

2307. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the statement made by the noted agriculture expert Shri M.S. Swaminathan that "Foodgrain production will have to grow at five million tonne a year in the next two decades if the country has to sustain food self-sufficiency" and that by 2020 the total foodgrain output have to be raised to 300 million tonnes; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take so that India could sustain self-sufficiency in food?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) Prof. M.S. Swaminathan in his inaugural address to the International Conference on "Managing Natural Resources for Sustainable Agricultural Production in the 21st Century" held at New Delhi on 14.2.2000, had referred to the projected foodgrains requirement of about 300 million tonnes by the year 2020 by Prof. G.S. Bhalla and others. It was also mentioned that to achieve these targets, foodgrain production must increase at the rate of 5 million tonnes per year over the next two decades.

(b) In order to achieve the goals of doubling food production and making India hunger-free in ten years, a regionally differentiated strategy, based on agro-climatic regional planning, which takes into account agronomic, climatic and environmental conditions has been adopted in the Ninth Plan, to realise the full potential of growth in every region.

Benefit of subsidy to poor farmers

†2308. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to the subsidy given on fertilizers a kind of situation is arisen where it has affected the fertility of soil and environmentalists are much worried about it;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether big landlords are getting the benefit of this subsidy instead of poor farmers; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.